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UPCOMING EVENTS

Great American Cleanup
March 1 - May 31, 2006
www.kab.org

National Environmental Education Week
April 16-22
www.eeweek.org

National Youth Service Day
April 21-23, 2006
www.ysa.org/nysd

Earth Day
April 22, 2006
www.earthday.gov

National Volunteer Week
April 23-29, 2006
www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw

National Arbor Day
April 28, 2006
www.arborday.org

Join Hands Day
May 6, 2006
www.joinhandsday.org

Greetings from the Executive Director

Spring has arrived and as you know, that means volunteer season is underway. This month we celebrate Earth Day and National Volunteer Week, and Take Pride celebrates its third anniversary. With the excitement surrounding these upcoming events, it is hard to say goodbye to Secretary Gale A. Norton, a woman who has embodied leadership for this Department and had an integral role with Take Pride. It was under her direction that Take Pride was re-launched in April 2003.

Since that time, Take Pride has accomplished many things. We have developed relationships with volunteer groups and representatives in every state. There are even five states that have turned Take Pride into a state-wide initiative! Additionally, Take Pride has launched four programs to support specific projects and hosted or participated in over 5,000 events across the Nation. Our public service message, featuring spokesman Clint Eastwood, has reached nearly 25 million people in broadcast or print publications, and more than 2,000 awards have been given to recognize volunteer service since the re-launch of Take Pride.

Together, we have accomplished many things and over the next year we hope to continue that momentum. Best wishes to Secretary Norton and we certainly look forward to seeing her as a volunteer at future Take Pride events.

Sincerely,



Michelle Cangelosi



Secretary Norton, fourth from left, with the staff of Take Pride at the National Awards Ceremony in September 2005.

Save the Mustangs Fund Ready to Distribute Over \$200,000

The Bureau of Land Management, Take Pride in America, and Ford Motor Company announced that more than \$200,000 raised for the "Save the Mustangs" fund is ready for distribution to eligible wild horse and equine rescue groups to help place thousands of mustangs into private, long-term care.



This partnership was established in

May 2005 to build public awareness and support for wild horses, and to help ensure their future sustainability. In less than a year, the fund generated more than \$200,000 in contributions, including Ford's financial support for 2,000 horses. To learn more about how to qualify to receive funds or about wild horse and burro adoption, visit www.savethemustangs.org.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



BLM Announces 2006 “Making A Difference” National Volunteer Award Winners

Two couples, four individuals, two organizations and one employee were announced as recipients of the 2006

Making A Difference Award from the Bureau of Land Management.

Thousands of BLM volunteers make significant contributions to America’s public lands each year, performing numerous functions in every aspect of public land management. Each year since 1996, BLM has hon-

ored the most exceptional of these volunteers, as well as BLM employees who work with volunteers, through its “Making a Difference” national awards program.

This program supports the President’s call for increased service to America, and is also part of the “Take Pride in America ” initiative. The winners will be honored at a ceremony May 10 at the Department of the Interior.

Congratulations to this year’s ‘Making A Difference’ winners!

Tom and Marty Taylor and Hualapai the burro, father-and-son volunteers for the Arizona wild horse and burro program in Mesa, Arizona.

Virginia Freeman, a volunteer for the California wild horse and burro program in Susanville, California.

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument/Anasazi Heritage Center Volunteer Program, a volunteer group that runs the day-to-day operations of the monument and museum in southwestern Colorado.

Big Woods Backcountry Trails, a volunteer trail advocacy group in Idaho’s Wood River Valley.

Darlene Stark, a wildlife volunteer in the BLM Four Rivers Field Office in Boise, Idaho.

Chuck Worley, Chairman of the Friends of Worley Canyon in Carson City, Nevada.

Scott Wheeler, member of the Castle County OHV Association, who has mapped OHV travel areas in Price, Utah.

Jim and Gloria Doughty, campground hosts with the BLM Lander Field Office in Lander, Wyoming.

BLM Employee Chris Pipkin, for his work on recreational and trail-building partnerships as a Park Ranger in the Grand Junction, Colorado Field Office.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Furry, Feathered Friends Find New Homes in Oklahoma

Deer Creek Elementary School, a Take Pride School, has a few additions to their “Antlerville” Outdoor Classroom. The students spent the winter months familiarizing themselves with birds, squirrels, and bats and decided to build new homes for the creatures they had been studying.

Over three hundred children and volunteers, including high school students, teachers and parents, worked on this valuable project. Students saw the need for new homes when they noticed how many creatures were displaced from their habitat as new housing developments were built around the school.

Students researched where the animals live and what type of environment would be best; and drew

plans and explored possible locations that would be good homes for their outdoor friends. High school students helped the primary students construct squirrel and bird houses and the younger students determined where they would help hang the new habitats.

Students at Deer Creek Elementary School watch as a high school volunteer hangs a bird house in their outdoor classroom.



Take Pride says Thanks for Lending A Hand to Secretary Norton

As Secretary Gale A. Norton says goodbye to the Department of the Interior, Take Pride in America looks back at her participation over the last three years. Secretary Norton re-launched Take Pride in April 2003 to raise awareness about our public spaces and encourage responsible use of our shared lands. She was active with the program by participating in volunteer events and recognizing volunteers for their service. Thank you Secretary Norton for your willingness to 'Lend A Hand!'



Photos: Top row, l-r: 1-Secretary Norton has been one of Take Pride's most visible advocates. 2-Secretary Norton and Marti Allbright, former Executive Director of Take Pride, ride in the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, California in January 2004. They carried pledge cards representing a commitment of 500,000 hours of volunteer service for restoration to lands after the California forest fires. 3-Secretary Norton helps paint Lock House 8, an historic building, at the C & O Canal National Historic Park on National Public Lands Day in September 2004. 4-Secretary Norton launched the Take Pride Schools Program with national spokesman, Clint Eastwood in Carmel, California, in May 2005. Together, they assist a student from Carmel River School with a planting project.

Bottom row, l-r: 1-City council members of Estes Park, Colorado accept the designation as a "Take Pride in America City" from Secretary Norton in July 2004. 2-Kym Murphy from the Walt Disney Company jokes with the Secretary after the Take Pride National Awards Ceremony in Washington, DC in September 2005. 3-Girl Scout Troop 187 & 506, Heart of Ohio are recognized by Secretary Norton for winning the 2005 Take Pride National Award in the Youth category.

CITY SPOTLIGHT

Volunteers in Salem, Oregon Work to Enhance City Park

Students from Willamette University and community volunteers came together to plant trees in a local park on March 18 in Salem, Oregon, a Take Pride in America City. The City of Salem Parks Operations Division hosted 50 volunteers for the half-day project,

who planted sixteen young Oregon White Oaks to help preserve the oak savanna of Bush Pasture Park. The park is a 95-acre historic park that features walking and jogging paths, picnic areas and a playground. One of the park's nicest features is a grassy

pasture with huge Oregon White Oak trees. Over the past few years, some trees have suffered from a fungus that decayed the roots. With the cooperative efforts of the city and the volunteers, the park will remain a beautiful place for recreation in the community.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Earth Day-Saturday, April 22

This year marks the 36th anniversary of Earth Day, a global event to enhance public lands, natural resources and communities around the world. Thousands of organizations, from civic and recreation groups, to state and local governments, will host events to contribute to this worldwide effort. Check out www.earthday.gov for more information.

To find a Take Pride in America event near you, visit www.TakePride.gov.



Capital River Relief Project in DC Area

On April 6, the Capital River Relief (CCR) project will kick off and invite

Washingtonians to help clean up the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers throughout the month of April.

Port-a-potties, lawn mowers, BBQ grills and TVs are just some of the items discovered in previous clean ups. For the third year in a row, Take Pride in America will host a Take Pride Day for DC based employees of the Department of the Interior. Take Pride has invited employees and their families and friends to participate with a half-day commitment on Saturday, April 29.

The Capital River Relief project is a coalition of environmental groups, businesses, as well as community and government organizations, who work together to remove trash from the Potomac and Anacostia watersheds. Visit www.capitalriverrelief.org for more information or to volunteer.

New Take Pride School!

Audobon Elementary School

Merritt Island, FL

Principal Lynn Francisco

Thank you...

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride." Please keep sending us articles and photos at TakePride@ios.doi.gov for future newsletter editions or for publication on our website.

2006 National Award Application Available

The application for the 2006 Take Pride National Awards is posted on our website at www.TakePride.gov. Applications can be completed online or submitted via fax.



All Take Pride events are eligible to be nominated, so long as it occurred or is in progress between June 5, 2005 and June 4, 2006. The application deadline is June 16, 2006. The Awards Ceremony will be in September 2006 in Washington, DC.

There are 12 categories for consideration of awards.

- Individual
- School Program (Elementary, Secondary, Post-Secondary)
- State Event/ Program
- Federal Land Managers
- Corporation
- Non-Profit Organization
- Faith Based Group
- Federal Volunteer Event/ Program
- Local Government Event/ Program
- Youth/ Youth Group
- Public/ Private Partnership
- Outstanding Take Pride Partner Award

For Your Information

If you would like our Take Pride Volunteer Guides, brochures or plastic banners for your next event, simply email us the quantity and we will send them to you. Additionally, we have other items that can be sent to help you reward your volunteers for their service. Please call us to discuss your needs.

To view a copy of the Volunteer Guide online, visit http://www.takepride.info/volguide/doi_volguide.pdf

Please continue to look for the Take Pride public service announcements in print and broadcast on television. Let us know if you see one of our ads featuring the Take Pride message and Clint Eastwood.

Email takepride@ios.doi.gov if you have information for our newsletter, or if you have questions.